

including the trackball which Engel et al concerns on the surface of the inputting device or keyboard. The motion of said KSM inputting keys with respect to the KSM inputting device surface and with respect to other inputting keys is an improvement in prior art in that the key positions need not be made manually in repetition with different users. Comfortable and unique positions of inputting may be recalled by different users effortlessly with the use of motors and the memory of a computer.

This improvement offered by the KSM does not concern the movement of inputting keys in order to produce actuation, rather KSM improvement with the use of motors and computer concerns the movement of inputting keys not to produce signals from them but to move said keys and their parts on a KSM surface and as such is a novel improvement not found in prior art.

Conclusion

12. Nagai teaches a pointing device of a switch, a first dial, a second dial and a body. Said parts are only concerned with cursor or pointer navigation and is limited to having perfect completely surrounded circles due to its necessity of rotation. KSM keys are not limited in these ways. Unlike the present application the apparatus is not concerned with the totality of keyboard data and control inputting. With the KSM, capacitive keys, hard-contact keys and key-arrangement key surround keys need not completely surround a center key and is a function of the KSM improving the use and method of inputting on the conventional keyboard so as to increase efficiency for the user. For the same reasons extensions of size, shape and/or texture of each of the above said surrounding keys of said navigating key allows improved access with regard to conventional inputting practices on the standard keyboard. Additionally, the key-surround module inputting device application discloses the novel floating plural direction pivotable key-surround key which may surround such center trackball, touch tablet or other pointer navigating

device as well as any other key or keys. Rotation is a feature of KSM keys for the purpose of moving key-value positions to increase the user's inputting efficiencies and comfort, not only for the actuation of a cursor or pointer device.

Suzuki teaches a trackball driven apparatus having switches (SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4) disposed around a track ball. Surrounding keys are solely for the purpose of switching for said trackball for Z-axis data inputting. Unlike those of Suzuki's apparatus, the KSM surrounding keys, are concerned with the totality of keyboard inputting, and are not limited to the function of switch. With the KSM, capacitive keys, hard-contact keys and key-arrangement key surround keys need not completely surround a center key and is a function of the KSM improving the use and method of inputting on the conventional keyboard so as to increase efficiency for the user. For the same reasons extensions of size, shape and/or texture of each of the above said surrounding keys of said navigating key allows improved access with regard to conventional inputting practices on the standard keyboard. Additionally, the key-surround module inputting device application discloses the novel floating plural direction pivotable key-surround key which may surround such center trackball, touch tablet or other pointer navigating device as well as any other key or keys.

Chan teaches an electronic mouse with a plurality of switch buttons or specialty Internet surfing function buttons surrounding a primary selection button. The circularity of the keys is stated to be a function of the ergonomic shape of the mouse (column 3, line 43). Unlike the KSM inputting device its keys are is not concerned with the totality of keyboard inputting. Unlike those of Chan's apparatus, the KSM surrounding keys, are concerned with the totality of keyboard inputting, and are not limited to the function of switch. With the KSM, capacitive keys, hard-contact keys and key-arrangement key surround keys need not completely surround a center key

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Dated: September 2, 2002
New York

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Arthur H. Sarkissian
Inventor